

## SEARCH FOR ROSENWALD SCHOOLS CONTINUES

In 1913, Booker T. Washington, president of Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) partnered with philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, to further a program initiated by Washington to build schools in rural areas for African Americans. The program—one of the most ambitious school buildings projects in the nation—resulted in more than 5,300 schools, shop buildings, and teachers' homes constructed during a 19-year period in 15 southern states.

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) and the Southern Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation are leading efforts to survey and preserve Rosenwald Schools. Both organizations are working to build awareness of the significance of these properties and to form a network of interested individuals and organizations. See the Rosenwald Schools web site ([www.rosenwaldschools.com](http://www.rosenwaldschools.com)), or for information on Alabama schools contact Dorothy Walker, AHC coordinator for the Rosenwald School Program.

### Two of Nine Montgomery County Schools Documented

Constructed around 1923, the **Tankersley Rosenwald School** in Hope Hull near Pintlala sits next to the First Baptist Church on School Spur Road. Recently listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage, the building retains much of its original design features. The Montgomery County Farmers Service and Welfare Association, owner of the building, recently invited Dorothy Walker to speak at a ceremony to unveil a historical marker at the school. The organization plans to restore the building for community use.



*Shown are principal organizers of the marker unveiling event.*

Located off of Montgomery County Road #2, the **Cecil Rosenwald School** (now Cecil Elementary) is a classic example of rural schools built with matching grant money from the Rosenwald school building fund. Built around 1927, the wood frame building has most of its original historic features including original wood windows, doors, exterior siding, interior walls, ceilings, floors, and original tin roof. AHC staff is working with the owner to list the building in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

### 389 RURAL SCHOOLS IN 65 COUNTIES

The AHC has received information on two dozen of these schools and would like to receive information on all of Alabama's remaining old rural schools.

Depending on their present condition, these schools could be eligible for listing in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage, or the National Register for Historic Places. If you have information, call Dorothy Walker at (334) 242-3184, or send an email to [dorothy.walker@preserveala.org](mailto:dorothy.walker@preserveala.org).

### FORMER INTERN NOW DIRECTOR OF INDIANA REGIONAL OFFICE



**TIFFANY TOLBERT**, a BHC intern from 2001-2003, is the director of the Calumet Regional Office for the Indiana Historic Landmarks Foundation. "My internship at the Alabama Historical Commission and with the Black Heritage Council was the first exposure I had to historic preservation as a profession, so I can say it was that experience that helped me realize my career goals," said Tiffany.

◆ The Huntingdon College graduate received a master's degree in historic preservation from Georgia State University in 2006

◆ Interned with the Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network, a program of the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

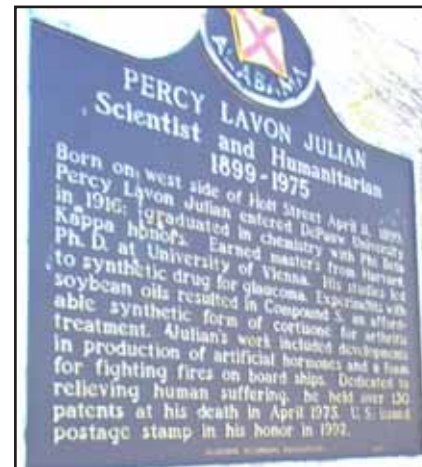
The National Trust for Historic Preservation Diversity Scholarship Program seeks to increase the diversity of participants at the National Preservation Conference and in the preservation movement. The program provides financial assistance to approximately 60 community leaders from diverse social, economic, racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds to attend the conference.

For information including the application form, visit [www.nationaltrust.org/scholarships/diversity\\_scholarship.html](http://www.nationaltrust.org/scholarships/diversity_scholarship.html). Or contact the Diversity Scholarship Program at (202) 588-6027, or [scholarships@nthp.org](mailto:scholarships@nthp.org). Applications for the 2007 conference in Saint Paul, Minnesota, October 2-6, are due June 1.



## TELEVISION SERIES FEATURES FORMER MONTGOMERY RESIDENT

**FORGOTTEN GENIUS** is the title of a two-hour film for the PBS Science series that aired February 6 for Black History Month. The documentary is the biography of former Montgomery resident Dr. Percy Julian, a pioneering black chemist, entrepreneur, civil rights champion, and educator.



Stephen Lyons, PBS project director of the Percy Julian Biography, says, "Looking for an African-American scientist whose story would allow us to explore the issue of race in science, we considered agronomist George Washington Carver, biologist E. E. Just, and blood bank pioneer Charles Drew, among others. But Percy Julian's story stood out...While he'd encountered the same racial obstacles all black scientists of his generation faced, Julian had overcome them more successfully than any other African-American in the first half of the 20th century."

Born in Montgomery in 1899, Julian received the eighth grade education that was available to African Americans. He studied for two years at the State Normal School, a teacher training school for blacks (now Alabama State University).

Upon graduation in 1916, Julian was accepted at DePauw University. Upon graduation from DePauw in 1920, he was selected as class valedictorian. Although at the top of his class, he was discouraged from seeking admission into graduate school because of potential racial sentiment on the part of future coworkers and employers.

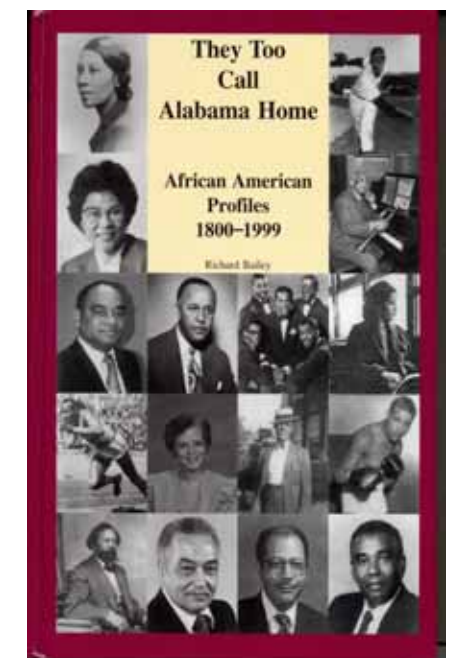
Based on the advice of an advisor, he became a chemistry teacher at Fisk University, a black college in Nashville, Tennessee.

After two years at Fisk, Julian, with an Austin Fellowship in Chemistry, was accepted to Harvard University where he received a master's in 1923. He received a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Vienna.

## BAILEY'S BOOK FEATURES DR. PERCY JULIAN

In his book, *They Too Call Alabama Home*, Dr. Richard Bailey wrote these comments regarding Dr. Percy Julian:

- ◆ He inherited a legacy that opposed segregation and second-class citizenship.
- ◆ For 17 years, Julian guided the work of 50 well-trained scientists at the Chicago-based Glidden Company.
- ◆ While at Glidden, his discovery significantly increased the world's supply of progesterone and testosterone and decreased the cost of hormone treatment.
- ◆ His parents' interests in education took on added dimensions since black public education in Montgomery was limited to eighth grade. He received the only education possible at the State Normal School, including some high school grounding and teacher training.





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## PRESENTER

**BHC CHAIR FRAZINE TAYLOR** conducted genealogy workshops on February 1 at the Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham and on February 24 at the Meridian-Lauderdale County Public Library in Meridian, Mississippi. The Birmingham workshop targeted

beginners and the Mississippi workshop focused on the records at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH). Attendees at both workshops were given information on the BHC and preservation.

Ms. Taylor is a member of the Society of Alabama Archivists, the Montgomery Genealogical Society, the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society; and the Alabama Historical Association. She is president of the Elmore County Association of Black Heritage and has served as ADAH Head of Ready Reference for ten years.



**Black Belt  
African American  
Genealogical &  
Historical Society**

The Black Belt African American Genealogical and Historical Society is a newly formed nonprofit organization dedicated to the study and exchange of information and ideas among people interested in African American genealogy, family history and historic preservation in the 12 counties of Alabama's Black Belt—Bullock, Choctaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, Sumter and Wilcox. The organization sponsored the first ever Black Belt African American Genealogy Conference and Family History Fair on February 16-18, 2007.

## YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

Please Take the Alabama Historical Commission Public Survey Online  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=460533211972>



Congressman Artur Davis, master of ceremonies for the 2006 Alabama Preservation Awards, is shown with Audrey Hendricks (center) and Black Heritage Council Chair Frazine Taylor. Ms. Hendrick's mother, Lola Hendricks, is the 2006 Idella Childs Award recipient.



Previous Idella Childs honorees who attended the Alabama Preservation Conference in October in Birmingham are Sangernetta Bush (2004), Sharon Gilbreath (2005), and Romelia Blackburn (2001).

## BHC PARTICIPATES IN PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

A HERITAGE SO RICH: Exploring Public Spaces / Private Places Birmingham, Alabama

More than 200 participated in a variety of historic preservation activities at the Alabama Preservation Conference held October 12-14. The BHC cosponsored the event along with the Alabama Historical Commission, the Alabama Preservation Trust, and the Birmingham Historical Society. Activities included:

◆ A hands-on cemetery workshop at Zion Memorial Gardens, founded by African American businessman and civil rights activities Dr. A. G. Gaston, served as a learning laboratory for researching family history, and documenting, designating, and protecting cemeteries. The BHC, the Booker T. Washington Insurance Company, and the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance sponsored the workshop.

◆ Tours of the 4th Avenue Historic District, a historically African American business district, and *Two Parks—Linn and Ingram: Tales in Black and White*

◆ The Alabama Preservation Awards program honored Birmingham resident Lola Hendricks. She received the 2006 Idella Childs

Award for helping the Birmingham Historical Society document churches where civil rights members gathered. A majority of the churches are now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Idella Childs award is given annually in honor of the late BHC co-founder who was recognized for her outstanding African American preservation efforts.



**DR. JAMES P. "IKE" ADAMS, JR.** is the new chairman of the Alabama Historical Commission. A member of the Black Heritage Council, he previously served as AHC vice chair.

Dr. Adams is dean of the University of Alabama School of Social Work. The school is the only educational institution in Alabama offering all three degrees in social work—bachelor's, master's, and doctoral.

He holds a BA degree from Tougaloo College, an MA from the State University of New York-Stony Brook, and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.